

**REPORT TO THE  
OFFICE OF PLANNING  
FROM THE  
HAWAII OCEAN COASTAL COUNCIL  
REGARDING REQUEST FOR  
DRAFT GOALS FOR THE UPDATING  
OF  
STATE OCEAN RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**October 3, 2005**

## INTRODUCTION

The Hawai'i Ocean Resources Council (HOCC) met between August and October to consider a request by the Office of Planning to provide input on draft goals for the update of the Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP). A List of the HOCC members is attached. The HOCC forwards via this report the outcomes of its discussions regarding draft goals. The short to mid-range goals were prioritized by the Council in recognition that often resources limit what can be accomplished and setting some priorities is a necessary step. The prioritization in no way implies that members of the Council do not feel strongly about all of the goals in this document.

Although the Council was asked to develop goals for the update of the ORMP the connection between ocean resource health and land based activities made it impossible to focus on one without reference to the other. The interrelationship of ocean health and land based activities is undeniable and as such a management principle that recognizes and provides for this interaction is essential to protect the health and well being of our coastal resources.

The Council will meet again after the October conference to continue its work around moving these goals forward. The Council sincerely hopes that its work is helpful in the amending of the ORMP.

### Document Organization

The document is organized around three themes: Protection of Natural and Cultural Resources, Coastal Development and Recognition and Balance between Resources, Resource Users and the Conflicts that Arise. Each theme has several long term goals and then several prioritized tiers of short to mid range goals. All goals within a specified tier have the same level of importance. The goals are often followed by examples that could be used as objectives or come into play in implementing actions as the plan moves forward.

## **THEME I: PROTECTION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **Long Range Goals**

- Maintenance and enhancement of natural and cultural resources. (Examples: watershed protection; wetland protection; etc.)
- Continually integrate the impacts of global climate change into the ORMP (Examples: temperature changes; current changes; etc.)

### **Short to Mid Range Goals**

#### **Tier 1**

Provide for ease of permitting for activities that enhance the natural and cultural resources. (Examples: beach nourishment; invasive species removal; fish pond restorations; mooring pin installation; etc.)

#### **Tier 2**

Develop a system for assessing management needs and developing management practices that draw collectively on regulatory, science based, traditional and cultural, community based and political systems. (Examples: look at use of Hawaiian moon calendar; Konohiki concept; etc)

#### **Tier 3**

Establish appropriate transparent permitting requirements for the protection of natural and cultural resources. (Examples: streamlining the permit process where it would assist with the preservation of resources and getting more restrictive where activities would create risks to the health of the resources; etc.)

Develop and incorporate into all educational venues the message of the importance of the natural and cultural resources and man's role in protecting and preserving them through the adherence to and understanding of regulations, science, traditional and cultural practices and community involvement.

Implement multi-jurisdictional approaches to natural and cultural resource protection that are transparent. (Examples: Develop baseline maps of natural and cultural resources to be protected, use ahupua`a boundaries and clearly delineate jurisdictional issues needing to be addressed around the identified resources)

#### **Tier 4**

Facilitate the establishment of effective Marine Protective Areas based on best available knowledge and values.

Develop and encourage the use of fisheries management tools that enhance the protection of the natural and cultural resources. (Examples: reduce over fishing; establish kapu areas for fishing based on spawning/seasonal cycles; look at gear issues; etc.)

**Tier 5**

Improve our ability to analyze impacts of development on ocean resources.

Encourage the implementation of Hawai`i's local action strategies developed through the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force.

Encourage research that is focused on natural and cultural resources management needs. (Examples: increase knowledge to provide adequate basis for species management, utilizing scientific, indigenous, etc forms of knowledge; etc.)

**Tier 6**

Protect Hawai`i's coastline by reducing human induced erosion through encouraging soft approaches and discouraging shoreline armoring.

## **THEME II: COASTAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Long Range Goals**

- Encourage development/activities that decrease flooding and pollutant loading impacts on coastal areas
- Protect and restore sensitive coastal ecosystems, habitats, open spaces and cultural sites (Examples: establish appropriate access and community management options)
- Initiate sustainable coastal communities (Examples: cultural, economic, environmental, unified management of dune/beach communities and other closely related community elements)
- Achieve a broader recognition that activities on the land cause significant impact on coastal/marine resources.

### **Short to Mid Range Goals**

#### **Tier 1**

Improve compliance with existing laws and rules. (Example: setting meaningful timely consequences, providing adequate resources, implementing community programs such as Makai Watch, etc.)

#### **Tier 2**

Adopt and implement consistent statutes, ordinances, and rules that support smart development. (Examples: revisit zoning, building, subdivision and grading permit areas to provide a better fit in encouraging and accommodating smart growth)

#### **Tier 3**

Minimize/mitigate impacts of the increase in impervious surfaces on coastal resources.

Enhance the SMA process to better address resource risks and preservation needs. (Examples: address such issues as proximity to drainage ditches, shoreline sensitive resources etc.)

Develop a publicly accessible data base system of current and historic conditions impacting coastal resources. (Examples: technology could be GIS, PDF, co-operative sharing of data bases or other technology, should include such elements as impervious surfaces, hardened shorelines, wetlands, ahupua`a district boundaries, etc.)

Establish coastal resource based criteria by which to measure the appropriateness of development in an area. The system should require that the criteria be met and should provide an opportunity to meet the criteria through mitigation efforts. (Example: activities such as grading may have very different impacts depending on topography and other factors)

Harbors and boat launching ramps should provide management regimes and facilities that minimize impacts to marine resources. (Examples: pump outs, hardening design considerations, run off capture, toxic materials handling, storm water runoff, waste disposal, etc.)

#### **Tier 4**

Develop long term monitoring and other tools to assess the condition of marine resources in waters adjacent to areas designated for growth and those already developed.

Support sustainable aquaculture and agriculture practices that are non-degrading and resource neutral. (Example: Should encompass both traditional and contemporary methodologies and should reflect a science based approach)

#### **Tier 5**

Ensure that coastal development has waste water treatment facilities designed to protect coastal and marine resources. (Example: Review existing rules to make sure they address coastal resources and not just drinking water resources)

Large capacity ships should provide management regimes and shipboard facilities that minimize impacts to marine resources. (Examples: depth of discharge of treated waste, take into account currents when discharging, also the impact of discharging in a channel even if it is three miles from a coastline)

### **THEME III: RECOGNITION AND BALANCE BETWEEN RESOURCES, RESOURCE USERS AND THE CONFLICTS THAT ARISE**

#### **Long Range Goals**

- Develop community based mechanisms for addressing potential user conflicts (Example: establish/set up systems, set up system to monitor and assess how and if various initiatives are working)
- Identify trends in resources, resource uses and potential conflicts. (Examples: surfing schools, surf contests, near and off shore fisheries, commercial use of beaches)
- Tie sustainability of resources to growth and the impacts of growth on the resources.

#### **Short to Mid Range Goals**

##### **Tier 1**

Develop tools for determining sustainable levels of use for our natural coastal resources.

##### **Tier 2**

Develop guidelines for and educate people about human and wildlife interactions. (Examples: provide for public education about wise use and consequences of poor use to assist in enforcement)

Improve compliance with rules, laws and statutes regarding all aspects of ocean resource protection. (Examples: Makai Watch, boating regulations)

##### **Tier 3**

Develop systems to better manage recreational fisheries. (Examples: licensing, access to, subsistence [both general and native Hawaiian], data collection needs)

Encourage innovative alternative development options of ocean resource dependent industries, through the development of criteria designed to weigh the costs and benefits, and siting options for such industries while assuring maximum protection of natural and cultural resources and community input. (Examples: Wave energy, etc.)

Improve opportunities for community education, and mechanisms for community involvement regarding decision making where the government seeks to address public health and welfare. (Examples: Community Development Plans, Aha Councils, providing meaningful feedback loops to persons who engage in public processes, examining laws that make it hard to change plans after public review)

**Tier 4**

Protect and increase public access where appropriate and limit where resource endangerment would result from open access

**Tier 5**

Discourage activities that have negative impacts on ecological function, ecosystem health and cultural resources of coastal areas. (Example: using resources such as the salt ponds for airport use)

Mitigate the impact of visitor activities on the local community (Examples: hours of operation, days of operation)



## Hawaii Ocean Coastal Council Membership

Thorne Abbott – Maui County Planning Department

Lt. Col. Dave Anderson – Commander U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Leimana DeMate – Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

Dr. Charles Fletcher – School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology – University of Hawaii

Dr. Jim Gaines – Vice President, Research – University of Hawaii

Dr. Gordon Grau – Director – Sea Grant College Program – University of Hawaii

Heidi Guth – Lead Advocate – Native Rights – Land and Culture - Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Rod Haraga – Director – Department of Transportation

Rebecca Hommon – Regional Council – Navy Region Hawaii

Camille Kalama – PVY Policy Analyst – Polynesian Voyaging Society

Alice Kawaha – Planning Manager – County of Hawaii

Dr. Laurence Lau – Deputy – Department of Health

Gary Ishikawa – Civil Defense

Jerry Leinecke – Project Leader – Refuges Division – U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Professor Jo-Anne Leong – Director – Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology – University of Hawaii

Ted Liu – Director – Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism

Roy Morioka – Chairperson – Western Marine Fishery Mgmt Council

Duane Okamoto – Department of Agriculture

Bill Robinson – Regional Administrator – NOAA Fisheries, Pacific Islands Regional Office

Sue Sakai – Chairperson – Marine & Coastal Zone Advocacy Council

Capt. Tim Skuby – Commander, Sector Honolulu – U.S. Coast Guard

Christopher Smith – State Soil Scientist – USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Peter Young, Chairperson, Board of Land and Natural Resources